

NEWS RELEASE

January 23, 2008

Contact: Steve Sautter
Public Information Officer
(509) 628-8470

Tone alert radio exchange in Plymouth and Paterson

Richland – Residents and business owners in and around Plymouth and Paterson are reminded that they will be able to exchange their Tone Alert Radios (TAR) on Friday, January 25, and Saturday, January 26.

TARs have been provided free of charge to homes and businesses surrounding the Umatilla Chemical Depot since June of 2000.

“TARs work just fine when plugged into an electrical outlet,” stated Steve Sautter, Public Information Officer with Benton County Emergency Services (BCES). “A specialized battery insures that the TAR will continue to operate if we experience a power outage. However, many TAR batteries have reached their life expectancy and now require replacement.”

TARs are one of five public warning systems that would be activated to warn the public of a chemical emergency at the Umatilla Chemical Depot. They also provide weather alerts from the National Weather Service.

BCES staff members will be at the Plymouth Fire Station from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, January 25 and at the Paterson Fire Department from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, January 26.

Residents of Plymouth, Paterson, and agricultural areas near the communities who may not have been issued a TAR or shelter in place kit will have the opportunity to receive one during this exchange program.

Additional information can be obtained by calling BCES at (509) 628-2600 or toll free at (800) 841-7953.

###